



Key Changes to Priority and Banding Fact Sheet

In order to join the housing register you will need to complete an application by visiting the West Cheshire Homes website at: http://www.westcheshirehomes.co.uk/Choice/C/HES_Home.aspx The information you provide within your application will be used to decide which priority banding you will be placed in.

What were the old priority bandings?

The old Allocation Policy gave each applicant on the housing register a specific band which took into account their housing need. There were five bands ranging from A to E with band A being awarded to someone in urgent housing need through to band E where someone was assessed as having no statutory housing need.

So what's changed?

To help simplify things and ensure that those with the greatest housing need are given priority, the number of bands in the new Allocations Policy has been reduced from five to three. Band A will continue to be awarded to those applicants with an urgent housing need, band B will be awarded to applicants with a high housing need and the Housing Options Band would be awarded to those applicants with no statutory housing need.

What do you mean by a statutory housing need?

The Government has told all Councils that they have to give a "reasonable preference" or a "higher priority" to those applicants that meet the following statutory housing needs:

- Someone who is homeless;
- Overcrowded;
- Living in poor unsatisfactory housing;
- Needing to move on medical or welfare grounds and finally;
- Needing to move to a particular locality to avoid hardship.

All applicants who have been assessed as having any of the above statutory housing needs will be placed in either bands A or B. These applicants will be able to actively bid for properties that are advertised each week.

So what happens if an applicant doesn't meet any of the statutory housing need priorities?

If an applicant has been assessed as having no statutory housing need they will not be able to be part of the active bidding register and will

instead be placed in the Housing Options Band. Applicants in the Housing Options Band will be sent details about a range of available housing options such as properties that were not allocated to anyone in bands A and B, and home ownership.

If an applicant feels that their circumstances have changed and/or they think that they do meet the statutory housing need criteria then they should contact West Cheshire Homes directly via:

Telephone: 0300 123 2442

Email: westcheshirehomes@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Post: West Cheshire Homes, Council Offices,
4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE.



West Cheshire
Homes